

# **RIVERS POINT PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION PWS # 4080037 SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT REPORT**

---

**DATE: November 27, 2000**



## **State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality**

**Disclaimer:** This publication has been developed as part of an informational service for the source water assessments of public water systems in Idaho and is based on data available at the time and the professional judgement of the staff. Although reasonable efforts have been made to present accurate information, no guarantees, including expressed or implied warranties of any kind, are made with respect to this publication by the State of Idaho or any of its agencies, employees, or agents, who also assume no legal responsibility for the accuracy of presentations, comments, or other information in this publication. The assessment is subject to modification if new data is produced.

## Executive Summary

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative sensitivity to contaminants regulated by the Act. This assessment is based on a land use inventory of the designated assessment area and sensitivity factors associated with the watershed characteristics.

This report, *Source Water Assessment for Rivers Point Property Owners Association, Idaho*, describes the public drinking water system, the zone boundary of water contribution, and the associated potential contaminant sources located within this boundary. This assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this source. **The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the water system.**

The Rivers Point Property Owners Association drinking water system consists of one surface water intake structure in the Middle Fork of the Payette River. The system also consists of two wells and a spring for drinking water, of which will be assessed at a later date.

The primary water quality issue currently facing the Rivers Point Property Owners Association and of most surface water systems is that of bacterial contamination and the problems associated with managing it.

This assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a “pristine” area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

Due to the fairly short time associated with the movement of surface waters, source water protection activities should be aimed at short-term management strategies with the development of long-term management strategies to counter any future contamination threats. Source water protection activities should be coordinated with the community of Crouch and other federal, state and local agencies.

A community with a fully developed source water protection program will incorporate many strategies. For assistance in developing protection strategies please contact your regional IDEQ office or the Idaho Rural Water Association.

# SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FOR RIVERS POINT PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

## Section 1. Introduction - Basis for Assessment

The following sections contain information necessary to understand how and why this assessment was conducted. **It is important to review this information to understand what the ranking of this source means.** A map showing the delineated source water assessment area, map showing the entire watershed contributing to the delineated area and the inventory of significant potential sources of contamination identified within the delineated area is attached. The list of significant potential contaminant source categories and their rankings used to develop the assessment also is attached.

### Background

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative susceptibility to contaminants regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This assessment is based on a land use inventory of the delineated assessment area and sensitivity factors associated with the intakes and watershed characteristics.

### Level of Accuracy and Purpose of the Assessment

There are over 2,900 public water sources in Idaho that must be completed by May of 2003. An in-depth, site-specific investigation of each significant potential source of contamination is not possible. **Therefore, this assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this source. The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the water system.**

The ultimate goal of the assessment is to provide data to local communities to develop a protection strategy for their drinking water supply system. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) recognizes that pollution prevention activities generally require less time and money to implement than treatment of a public water supply system once it has been contaminated. IDEQ encourages communities to balance resource protection with economic growth and development. The decision as to the amount and types of information necessary to develop a source water protection program should be determined by the local community based on its own needs and limitations. Source water protection is one facet of a comprehensive growth plan, and it can complement ongoing local planning efforts.

## **Section 2. Conducting the Assessment**

### **General Description of the Source Water Quality**

The Rivers Point Property Owners Association's water system serves approximately 140 people, and is located near Crouch in Boise County, Idaho. (Figure 1). The public drinking water system for the Rivers Point Property Owners Association is comprised of one surface water intake in the Middle Fork of the Payette River. The system also has ground water sources (two wells and a spring) that will be assessed separately.

The primary water quality issue currently facing the Rivers Point Property Owners Association and most surface water systems is that of possible bacterial contamination and the problems associated with managing it.

### **Defining the Zones of Contribution--Delineation**

To protect surface water systems from such potential contaminant pathways, the EPA required that the entire drainage basin be delineated upstream from the intake to the hydrologic boundary of the drainage basin (U.S. EPA, 1997b). The EPA recognized that an intake on a large water body could have an extensive drainage basin. Therefore, the EPA recommended that large drainage basins be segmented into smaller areas for the purpose of implementing a cost-effective potential contaminant inventory and susceptibility analysis. The delineation process established the physical area around an intake that became the focal point of the assessment. The process included mapping the boundaries of the zone of contribution into stream or river buffer zones. The buffer zones are a 500 feet minimum on either side of the river and extend upstream 25 miles from the intake. The buffer zones also extend up tributaries and stream reaches to the remainder of the 25-mile boundary.

The delineated source water assessment area for the Rivers Point Property Owners Association can best be described as a 500 foot buffer surrounding the Middle Fork of the Payette River, extending upstream and including stream tributaries and reaches within the watershed upstream 25 miles (See Figure 2). The delineated area consists of 30,216 acres. The actual data used by IDEQ in determining the source water assessment delineation is available upon request.

In addition to the source water delineation, IDEQ has included a 24-hour emergency response delineation to facilitate emergency-response activities. If a potential contaminant spills directly into a water body, the drinking water utility needs appropriate notification in order to turn off an intake, or switch to an alternative source. For each river or stream intake, the upstream emergency-response distance was calculated from the 24-hour stream flow time-of-travel. In the case of Rivers Point Property Owners Association, the 24-hour emergency response extends beyond the source water delineation to the watershed boundary. The 24-hour emergency-response delineation for rivers, stream and creeks is shown in Figure 3, along with locations of highways, railroads, pipelines, or other facilities which could pose a threat to the source water intake. The captured information has been included as part of the final assessment report.



## Identifying Potential Sources of Contamination

A potential source of contamination is defined as any facility or activity that stores, uses, or produces, as a product or by-product, the contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act and has a sufficient likelihood of releasing such contaminants at levels that could pose a concern relative to drinking water sources. The goal of the inventory process is to locate and describe those facilities, land uses, and environmental conditions that are potential sources of surface water contamination. The locations of potential sources of contamination within the delineation areas were obtained by field surveys conducted by IDEQ and from available databases.

Land use within the Rivers Point Property Owners Association source water delineated area is mostly forested land and consists of residential homes and small businesses. Homes and businesses within the area operate with individual septic systems.

It is important to understand that a release may never occur from a potential source of contamination provided they are using best management practices. Many potential sources of contamination are regulated at the federal level, state level, or both to reduce the risk of release. Therefore, when a business, facility, or property is identified as a potential contaminant source, this should not be interpreted to mean that this business, facility, or property is in violation of any local, state, or federal environmental law or regulation. What it does mean is that the potential for contamination exists due to the nature of the business, industry, or operation. There are a number of methods that water systems can use to work cooperatively with potential sources of contamination. These involve educational visits and inspections of stored materials. Many owners of such facilities may not even be aware that they are located near a public water supply intake.

## Contaminant Source Inventory Process

The process involved identifying and documenting potential contaminant sources within the Rivers Point Property Owners Source Water Assessment Area through the use of computer databases and Geographic Information System (GIS) maps developed by IDEQ. A map showing the delineated area with the potential contaminant sources is included (Figure 2).

A total of 7 potential contaminant sites are located within the delineated source water area (see Table 1). Most of the potential contaminant sources within delineated source water areas are located near Crouch and consist of fuel facilities, a landfill transfer station, geothermal wells and a placer mining operation.

Potential contaminants of concern consist of volatile and synthetic organic contaminants related to refueling facilities. Table 1 lists the potential contaminants of concern and information source. It should be noted that the LUST (leaking underground storage tank) sites have undergone cleanup and one UST (underground storage tank) site is closed.

**Table 1. Rivers Point Property Owners Association Potential Contaminant Inventory**

| SITE # | Source Description | Source of Information | Potential Contaminants |
|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1      | LUST/UST           | Database Search       | VOC, SOC               |
| 2      | LUST/UST           | Database Search       | VOC, SOC               |
| 5      | UST                | Database Search       | VOC, SOC               |
| 6      | GEOHERMAL          | Database Search       | IOC                    |
| 7      | GEOHERMAL          | Database Search       | IOC                    |
| 8      | MINE/PROSPECT      | Database Search       | IOC, VOC, SOC          |
| 9      | LANDFILL           | Database Search       | IOC, VOC, SOC, M       |

**IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical, M = Microbial**

## **Susceptibility Analyses**

The susceptibility of the source water system was ranked as high, moderate, or low risk according to the following considerations: hydrologic characteristics, physical integrity and construction of the intake, land use characteristic, and potentially significant contaminant sources. The susceptibility rankings are specific to a particular potential contaminant or category of contaminants. Therefore, a high susceptibility rating relative to one potential contaminant does not mean that the water system is at the same risk for all other potential contaminants. The relative ranking that is derived for each intake is a qualitative, screening-level step that, in many cases, uses generalized assumptions and best professional judgement. The following summaries describe the rationale for the susceptibility ranking.

### **Intake Construction**

The construction of the public water system intake can affect the ability of the intake to protect the drinking water source from contaminants. The Rivers Point Property Owners Association drinking water system consists of one intake that produces surface water for domestic and business use. The intake is located in the Middle Fork of the Payette River, west of the community of Crouch, Idaho. Intake system construction scores were rated high due to the lack of an infiltration gallery of natural material and also due to insufficient information.

### **Potential Contaminant Source and Land Use**

The intake rated low in susceptibility in terms of potential contaminants overall for inorganic chemicals, moderate for volatile and synthetic organic chemicals and microbial bacteria.

In terms of the total susceptibility score, it can be seen from Table 2 that individually the contaminant classes range from moderate to high. The intake rated in the moderate category for the inorganic chemicals, volatile and synthetic organic chemicals, and high for microbial bacteria.

There have been a few detections of microbial bacteria (total coliform) above the Safe Drinking Water maximum levels, however these detections may be attributed to either a treatment system or distribution system inadequacy.

Total coliform bacteria are generally considered to be an indicator of pathogenic ground water contamination. Although Total Coliform bacteria itself does not represent a public health concern, other bacteria and viruses associated with it may represent serious health concerns. Total coliform bacteria are often associated with surface activities. Potential sources of bacteria contamination can include subsurface sewage disposal systems (septic tanks and drain fields), contaminated surface water and confined animal rearing areas.

**Table 2. Summary of Rivers Point Property Owners Association Susceptibility Evaluation**

| Table 2.<br>Summary of<br>Rivers Point<br>Property<br>Owners<br>Assoc. | Contaminant<br>Inventory |     |     |           | System<br>Construction | Final Susceptibility Ranking |     |     |           |
|--|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----------|
|  | IOC                      | VOC | SOC | Microbial |                        | IOC                          | VOC | SOC | Microbial |
| M.F. Payette<br>River Intake   | L                        | L   | L   | M         | M                      | M                            | M   | M   | H*        |

H = High Susceptibility, M = Moderate Susceptibility, Low Susceptibility

IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical

H\* - Indicates source automatically scored as high susceptibility due to presence of either a VOC, SOC, or Microbial in the finished drinking water

### Susceptibility Summary

The Rivers Point Property Owners Associations' drinking water system is moderately susceptible to inorganic chemicals, volatile and synthetic organic chemicals due to the presence of potential contaminant sources. The system rates high for microbial contamination overall. Surface water systems vulnerable to microbial contamination in general and treatment is extremely important.

### Section 3. Options for Source Water Protection

The susceptibility assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what the susceptibility ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a "pristine" area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require education and surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

An effective source water protection program is tailored to the particular local source water protection area. A community with a fully developed source water protection program will incorporate many strategies. For the Rivers Point Property Owners Association, source water protection activities should focus on environmental education with the community, recreational users and businesses that operate within the vicinity the delineation. Future planning efforts to reduce land uses that present a potential threat to the drinking water sources, particularly those in close proximity to the intakes should be considered. Most of the delineated areas are outside the direct jurisdiction of the Rivers Point Property Owners Association. Due to the relatively short time involved with the movement of surface water, source water



protection activities should be aimed at short-term management strategies with an emphasis on dealing with long-term future impacts from these same sources. Source water protection activities can be coordinated with the community of Crouch, the Idaho Department of Lands, the U.S. Forest Service, and other agencies with lands and jurisdiction within the delineated source water area.

While the surface water sources possess adequate quality and yield, limitations and vulnerability related to the construction of the intakes should be reviewed. An investigation of the feasibility of a shift to potential ground water sources to augment or replace the current surface water system should be considered.

### **Assistance**

Public water supplies and others may call the following IDEQ offices with questions about this assessment and to request assistance with developing and implementing a local protection plan. In addition, draft protection plans may be submitted to the IDEQ office for preliminary review and comments.

Boise Regional IDEQ Office (208) 373-0550

State IDEQ Office (208) 373-0502

Website: <http://www.deq.state.id.us>

## References Cited

EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), 1997, State Methods for Delineating Source Water Protection Areas for Surface Water Supplied Sources of Drinking Water, EPA 816-R-97-008, 40p.

Great Lakes-Upper Mississippi River Board of State and Provincial Public Health and Environmental Managers, 1997, "Recommended Standards for Water Works"

Idaho Department of Water Resources, 1993. Administrative Rules of the Idaho Water Resource Board: Well Construction Standards Rules. IDAPA 37.03.09.

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 1997. Design Standards for Public Drinking Water Systems. IDAPA 58.01.08.550.01.

Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality, 1999, Idaho Source Water Assessment Plan

Howarth, Rob, 1996, Ground Water Quality Technical Report No. 7, An Evaluation of Bacteria in Ground Water Near Mountain Home, Elmore County, Idaho, Idaho Division of Environmental Quality, Southwest Idaho Regional Office

U.S. Government Printing Office, 1995, Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR 112, Appendix C-III, Calculation of the Planning Distance

## Attachment A

# Rivers Point Property Owners Association Susceptibility Analysis Worksheet

The final scores for the susceptibility analysis were determined from the addition of the Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score and Source Construction Score.

Final Susceptibility Scoring:

0 - 7    Low Susceptibility

8 - 15    Moderate Susceptibility

> 16    High Susceptibility

## Surface Water Susceptibility Report

Public Water System Name :

RIVERS POINT PROPERTY OWNERS ASSN

Intake# : WTP-MF PAYETTE

Public Water System Number

4080037

9/20/00 1:59:44 PM

## 1. System Construction

SCORE

Intake structure properly constructed

NO

1

Infiltration gallery or well  
under the direct influence of Surface Water

NO

2

Total System Construction Score

3

## 2. Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use

IOC  
ScoreVOC  
ScoreSOC  
ScoreMicrobial  
Score

Predominant land use type (land use or cover)

BASALT FLOW, UNDEVELOPED, OTHER

0

0

0

0

Farm chemical use high

NO

0

0

0

Significant contaminant sources \*

NO

Sources of class II or III contaminants or microbials present within the 500' of the intake and the

1

2

2

4

Agricultural lands within 500 feet

NO

0

0

0

0

Three or more contaminant sources

YES

1

1

1

1

Sources of turbidity in the watershed

YES

1

1

1

1

Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score

4

6

6

10

## 3. Final Susceptibility Source Score

7

9

9

13

## 4. Final Source Ranking

Moderate

Moderate

Moderate

Moderate

\* Special consideration due to significant contaminant sources  
The source water has no special susceptibility concerns

# POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT INVENTORY

## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

**AST (Aboveground Storage Tanks)** – Sites with aboveground storage tanks.

**Business Mailing List** – This list contains potential contaminant sites identified through a yellow pages database search of standard industry codes (SIC).

**CERCLIS** – This includes sites considered for listing under the **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**. CERCLA, more commonly known as **Superfund**, is designed to clean up hazardous waste sites that are on the national priority list (NPL).

**Cyanide Site** – DEQ permitted and known historical sites/facilities using cyanide.

**Dairy** – Sites included in the primary contaminant source inventory represent those facilities regulated by Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and may range from a few head to several thousand head of milking cows.

**Deep Injection Well** – Injection wells regulated under the Idaho Department of Water Resources generally for the disposal of stormwater runoff or agricultural field drainage.

**Enhanced Inventory** – Enhanced inventory locations are potential contaminant source sites added by the water system. These can include new sites not captured during the primary contaminant inventory, or corrected locations for sites not properly located during the primary contaminant inventory. Enhanced inventory sites can also include miscellaneous sites added by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) during the primary contaminant inventory.

**Floodplain** – This is a coverage of the 100 year floodplains.

**Group 1 Sites** – These are sites that show elevated levels of contaminants and are not within the priority one areas.

**Inorganic Priority Area** – Priority one areas where greater than 25% of the wells/springs show constituents higher than primary standards or other health standards.

**Landfill** – Areas of open and closed municipal and non-municipal landfills.

**LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank)** – Potential contaminant source sites associated with leaking underground storage tanks as regulated under RCRA.

**Mines and Quarries** – Mines and quarries permitted through the Idaho Department of Lands.)

**Nitrate Priority Area** – Area where greater than 25% of wells/springs show nitrate values above 5mg/l.

**NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System)** – Sites with NPDES permits. The Clean Water Act requires that any discharge of a pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source must be authorized by an NPDES permit.

**Organic Priority Areas** – These are any areas where greater than 25 % of wells/springs show levels greater than 1% of the primary standard or other health standards.

**Recharge Point** – This includes active, proposed, and possible recharge sites on the Snake River Plain.

**RICRIS** – Site regulated under **Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA)**. RCRA is commonly associated with the cradle to grave management approach for generation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

**SARA Tier II (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Tier II Facilities)** – These sites store certain types and amounts of hazardous materials and must be identified under the Community Right to Know Act.

**Toxic Release Inventory (TRI)** – The toxic release inventory list was developed as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (Community Right to Know) Act passed in 1986. The Community Right to Know Act requires the reporting of any release of a chemical found on the TRI list.

**UST (Underground Storage Tank)** – Potential contaminant source sites associated with underground storage tanks regulated as regulated under RCRA.

**Wastewater Land Applications Sites** – These are areas where the land application of municipal or industrial wastewater is permitted by IDEQ.

**Wellheads** – These are drinking water well locations regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. They are not treated as potential contaminant sources.

**NOTE:** Many of the potential contaminant sources were located using a geocoding program where mailing addresses are used to locate a facility. Field verification of potential contaminant sources is an important element of an enhanced inventory.

Where possible, a list of potential contaminant sites unable to be located with geocoding will be provided to water systems to determine if the potential contaminant sources are located within the source water assessment area.